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NEW ISSUE

LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE AND LABOUR MOBILITY (DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1985), TASMANIA

INQUIRIES

Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning Hobart (002) 209 450 (Mr Frank McCallum). For other inquiries, including copies of publications, telephone the Information Officer on Hobart (002) 209 409.
The Tasmanian Office of the Bureau is located on the 3rd Floor of the Commonwealth Government Centre, 188 Collins Street, Hobart (G.P.O. Box 66A, Hobart, 7001).

MAIN FEATURES

- 35% of the civilian population aged 15 years and over did not spend any time in the labour force during the year ending February 1985.
- 39% of the civilian population aged 15 years and over did not work at any time during the year ending February 1985.
- 88% of the civilian population aged 15 years and over did not look for work at any time during the year ending February 1985.
- 94% of males and 88% of females in the 15-19 age group who were out of the labour force at some time during the year ending February 1985 attended an educational institution.
- 53% of all persons who were out of the labour force at some time during the year ending February 1985 kept house; 15% attended an educational institution and 20% had retired or were voluntarily inactive.
- Of persons who left a job during the year ending February 1985, 23% left for a better job or promotion; 14% because their current job had expired; 16% because they had been laid off and 12% for personal or family reasons.
- 90% of males and females who had worked at some time during the year ending February 1985 had had only one employer or business.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. The statistics in this publication relate to labour force experience and labour mobility during the year ending February 1985. In recent years, questions relating to labour force experience and labour mobility have been asked in supplementary surveys run in association with labour force surveys conducted throughout Australia. A set of State specific tables were produced from these surveys and form the basis for this publication.

Scope

2. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in **The Labour Force, Australia** (6203.0)) except that it excluded students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of jails, reformatories etc.

3. The estimates relate to persons covered by the survey in February 1985. Because of emigration, deaths and other exits not all persons with labour force experience during the period were covered. Labour force experience and labour mobility may relate to experience outside Australia.

Definitions

4. It is impracticable to obtain information relating to a whole year which is strictly comparable with that obtained in the monthly labour force survey for which the reference period is one week. The definitions used in determining the labour force status of persons in the monthly survey depend on a detailed set of questions asked about a person's labour force activity during the reference period. For the survey of labour force experience and labour mobility, a person is assigned to a labour force category for each of the weeks in the year on the basis of a more limited set of questions. It is for this reason that the terms **worked** and **looked for work** are used in this survey rather than the rigidly defined terms **employed** and **unemployed** used in the monthly labour force survey.

5. Persons in the **labour force** are those persons who, **for those weeks**, reported having either worked or looked for work as defined in paragraphs 6 and 7.

6. Persons who **worked** are those persons who, **for those weeks**, reported having either worked or been on paid leave. Periods of one week or more on strike or time off without pay are not classified as worked.

7. Persons who **looked for work** are those persons who, **for those weeks**, reported having been out of work and looking for a job. **Time spent looking for work during the year** is the total number of weeks persons reported having been out of work and looking for a job, including the weeks in the current period.

8. Persons **out of the labour force** are those who, during **any week**, neither worked nor looked for work as defined in paragraphs 6 and 7.

9. For the purposes of the survey, a **job** is defined as:

- (a) employment as a wage or salary earner (or unpaid family helper) by a particular employer, in a particular locality; or
- (b) self-employment (with or without employees) in a particular locality.

10. **Locality.** In Hobart and other major towns, each suburb is considered to be a different locality.

11. **Job mobility** is defined as a change of job. A **change of job** may involve a change of employer without a change of job location; a change of location without a change of employer; or a change in both employer and location. For example, the movement of an employer's operations to premises in a different location would entail a change of job for employees who moved to the new location. Promotion or transfer of an employee which involves a move to premises in a different location would also constitute a change of job. It should be noted, however, that for a person who works at different sites for the same employer (for example, a construction worker), his base of operations (i.e. his employer's office, depot, yard, etc) is considered to be his place of work.

Reliability of the estimates

12. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) **sampling error:** since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error. More information on this topic is given in Appendix A.
- (b) **non-sampling error:** inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Standard errors of estimates are shown in Appendix A.

Related publications

13. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Labour Force Statistics, Tasmania (6201.6)
The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) - issued monthly (\$1.10, \$1.90 including postage)
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, (6220.0) - issued for each March and September
Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons (Excluding those who were Stood Down), Australia, July 1984 (6222.0)
Labour Force Experience, Australia, During the Year ending February 1985 (6206.0)
Labour Mobility, Australia, During the Year ending February 1985 (6209.0)

14. Further information about Tasmanian Office ABS publications is included in the **Catalogue of Publications, Tasmanian Office** (1103.6). All publications produced by the ABS are listed in the **Catalogue of Publications** (1101.0) which is available from any ABS Office. Both catalogues are free of charge.

Symbols and other usages

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See Appendix A.
.. not applicable
n.a. not available

15. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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and
Government Statistician of Tasmania

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AT FEBRUARY 1985: TIME IN THE LABOUR FORCE DURING THE YEAR
ENDING FEBRUARY 1985 BY SEX

Time in the labour force during the year (weeks)	Males	Females	Persons
Nil	31.6	81.5	113.2
1 and under 4	*	1.9	2.3
4 and under 13	4.0	6.9	10.9
13 and under 26	2.6	4.4	7.0
26 and under 39	1.7	5.2	7.0
39 and under 49	4.9	8.1	13.0
49 and under 52	5.2	4.1	9.4
52	110.5	53.1	163.6
Total	161.0	165.2	326.3

TABLE 2. CIVILIAN POPULATION AT FEBRUARY 1985 : TIME WORKED DURING THE YEAR ENDING
FEBRUARY 1985 BY SEX

Time worked during the year (weeks)	Males	Females	Persons
Did not work	39.7	88.6	128.3
Time worked during the year -			
1 and under 4	*	*	2.7
4 and under 13	4.0	5.8	9.8
13 and under 26	3.6	4.9	8.5
26 and under 39	5.4	6.6	12.0
39 and under 49	8.1	9.1	17.2
49 and under 52	5.4	4.3	9.7
52	93.6	44.5	138.1
Total	161.0	165.2	326.3

TABLE 3. CIVILIAN POPULATION AT FEBRUARY 1985 : TIME SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1985 BY SEX

Time spent looking for work during year (weeks)	Males	Females	Persons
Did not look for work	138.5	149.5	288.0
Time spent looking for work -			
1 and under 4	*	2.6	3.9
4 and under 8	2.9	2.1	5.0
8 and under 13	3.6	2.7	6.4
13 and under 26	3.7	2.2	5.8
26 and under 39	3.5	1.8	5.3
39 and under 52	2.2	*	3.5
52	5.2	3.0	8.3
Total	161.0	165.2	326.3

TABLE 4. PERSONS OUT OF THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1985: MAJOR ACTIVITY WHEN OUT OF THE LABOUR FORCE BY AGE AND SEX : TASMANIA ('000)

Majority activity when out of the labour force	Age group (years)								
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	Total
MALES									
Attended an educational institution	10.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.8
Ill or injured	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.0
Retired, voluntarily inactive, etc.	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.0	16.4	24.4
Permanently unable to work	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.8
Unpaid leave	*	*	1.8	*	*	*	*	*	5.3
Other activity (a)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.1
Total	11.2	2.9	4.7	3.0	2.9	2.8	5.4	17.7	50.5
FEMALES									
Kept house	*	5.7	18.8	14.4	11.2	7.6	8.0	19.1	85.4
Attended an educational institution	9.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.7
Retired, voluntarily inactive, etc.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.1	7.4
Unpaid leave	*	*	1.7	1.5	*	*	*	*	4.5
Other activity (b)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.0
Total	11.3	8.0	21.8	17.0	12.9	8.3	9.2	23.7	112.1
PERSONS									
Kept house	*	5.7	18.8	14.7	11.3	7.6	8.0	19.6	86.2
Attended an educational institution	20.4	1.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	23.6
Ill or injured	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.8
Retired, voluntarily inactive, etc.	*	*	1.6	*	*	1.5	4.9	20.4	31.8
Permanently unable to work	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.6
Unpaid leave	*	1.6	3.5	2.3	*	*	*	*	9.8
Other activity	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.9
Total	22.5	10.9	26.5	20.0	15.8	11.1	14.6	41.4	162.6

(a) Includes kept house

(b) Includes ill or injured; permanently unable to work

TABLE 5. PERSONS WHO LEFT A JOB DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1985 :
REASON FOR LEAVING BY SEX : TASMANIA
('000)

Reason for leaving job	Males	Females	Persons
Better business or job (a)	5.3	3.2	8.4
Promotion or transfer (b)	2.1	*	2.5
Laid off - no work	2.8	*	3.8
- other reasons	*	*	1.9
Fixed term job (c)	2.0	2.9	4.9
Own health or medical reasons	*	*	2.2
Personal or family reasons	*	3.3	4.4
Other reasons (d)	3.9	4.3	8.2
Total	19.3	17.0	36.3

(a) Includes starting own business

(b) Includes secondment or transfer as a relief worker

(c) Duration of employment was fixed on hiring and has expired

(d) Includes holiday or seasonal work; unsatisfactory conditions; retired; business closed

TABLE 6. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1985 :
NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES BY AGE AND SEX : TASMANIA
('000)

Number of employers or businesses	Age group (years)								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65 and over	
MALES									
1	9.1	14.5	29.3	25.2	18.0	7.7	4.3	1.7	109.6
2	1.5	2.2	3.0	1.7	*	*	*	*	9.7
3 or more	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	2.0
Total	10.8	17.4	32.7	27.1	18.9	8.3	4.4	1.7	121.3
FEMALES									
1	8.0	11.2	18.9	16.0	9.8	2.6	*	*	68.8
2 or more	2.1	2.5	1.5	*	*	*	*	*	7.8
Total	10.1	13.7	20.4	17.2	10.4	2.6	*	*	76.7
PERSONS									
1	17.1	25.7	48.1	41.2	27.8	10.3	5.5	2.7	178.5
2	3.2	4.1	4.4	2.8	*	*	*	*	16.4
3 or more	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.2
Total	20.9	31.1	53.1	44.3	29.3	10.9	5.6	2.7	198.0

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APPENDIX A: STANDARD ERROR

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error. The sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the surveys. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate, and this is known as the relative standard error.

STANDARD ERRORS

Published estimate	Standard error of the estimate	Published estimate	Standard error of the estimate
1 500	350	4 500	560
1 800	380	5 000	580
2 000	400	6 000	630
2 500	440	10 000	770
3 000	470	20 000	990
3 500	500	50 000	1 350
4 000	530	100 000	1 650
		200 000	2 050